

Anti-Slavery Office,  
New York, March 31, 1862.

Dear Garrison,

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I will speak a kind  
word for Miss Dickinson, in  
respect to whom my opinions  
and feelings tally with <sup>your</sup> ~~your~~  
own. What I said about ~~ad~~  
inviting her to our Annual  
Meeting was prompted by a  
misapprehension of what Mr.  
May had told me. I thought  
he meant to put her forward  
among our best speakers; whereas,  
he only meant that she should

be invited to the meeting, and left to take such part as she may be inclined to take in the business sessions. To this I yield my hearty assent as wise and proper.

I think you should prepare the official notice of the Annual Meeting at once. The Trustees of the Church of the Puritans have not yet responded officially to our application, but members bid me to take for granted that we are to have the house, and ~~to~~ act accordingly. The arrangements, as to times of public and

business meetings, will be just  
the same as set down in last  
year's notice, which I enclose.

Dr. Tyng declines our invi-  
tation, but in terms of the highest  
respect and consideration. Theodore  
Tilton went with me to see him.  
He avowed himself, in his sen-  
timents, "a Garrison abolitionist,"  
and said he had been such  
from the first, and had the  
highest respect for the pioneers  
of the cause; but, in his peculiar  
circumstances, he thought it was  
not best for him to identify  
himself with them. He thought  
he could serve the cause better  
in the long run, in view of

his relations to his Church, by  
standing in an independent position,  
he said all this with such kind-  
ness, that neither Theodore nor  
I thought it worth while to enter  
into any argument with him.  
His position seems to me utterly  
indefensible, and yet I doubt  
not he holds it in all sincerity;  
and certainly the spirit he man-  
ifested toward us and our move-  
ments was appreciative and  
generous.

Whoever has all but promised  
to speak, & I think we may de-  
pend on him. Hatfield has  
not been heard from, but  
I think he will not decline.

On one point suffer me  
 as word. Don't engage more  
 than three speakers for our  
 morning meeting, and let  
 Phillips be the last, since he  
 always speaks best at the  
 end of a meeting, and the au-  
 dience will wait for the sake  
 of hearing <sup>him</sup>. Every year we find  
 that too many speakers impairs  
 the effect of that first meeting,  
 those who come first consuming  
 the time needed by those that  
 follow. Three good, well con-  
 sidered speeches, in addition  
 to what you may have to say  
 from the chair, the reading of

the Scriptures, &c., will inevitably  
consume the whole time; and  
if you seek to crowd in another,  
it will only serve to spoil  
Phillips's chance. Indeed, I am  
not sure that it would not  
be better still to give Cheever  
and Phillips the whole  
morning meeting, after your  
introductory remarks. Then  
we can bring on Hatfield  
and others in the evening.

Dana has resigned the post  
of managing editor of the Tribune,  
and Gay is installed in his place,  
a most important change, and  
one that will improve the tone  
of the paper. This inter nos.  
Yours, as ever, Oliver Johnson.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 11. 1852